

Minutes: Leesburg Tree Commission September 16, 2002

The Leesburg Tree Commission met on Monday, September 16, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room at 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Staff present for the meeting was Jay Banks.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Wolf
Commissioner Hower
Commissioner Bessa
Commissioner Perry
Council Member Schmidt
Commissioner Pritchard
Commissioner Goolsby

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Goolsby made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2002 with minor changes.

Motion: Goolsby
Second: Pritchard
Carried: 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Julie Overman and Bruce Dewar of the Historic District Residents Association, Shade Tree Stewards talked to the tree commission about their goals and to see how they could work together. They have three goals they want to get done within the Historic District, one would be working with the Town to create a policy for Utility Companies when they prune trees to use proper pruning practice, second would be to reorganize how the Town itself deals with trees, third would be the planting and care of new trees in locations on both public and private property.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Wolf talked about the Urban Forester Intern project.

Commissioner Pritchard is hoping that if this works out that this could end up as a year round intern.

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Commissioner Wolf asked how a Grant would work for the Intern project.

Mr. Banks explained that it would be a 50/50 match only if it was a qualifying function for the grant. The dead line for the grant is usually March.

Commissioner Pritchard stated that the commission needs to go ahead and contact Universities for an Intern.

Commissioner Perry asked Mr. Banks what project he had in mind for the Intern to do.

Mr. Banks stated very focused, minimal time for training, two basic tree inventory projects. One would be to query the system to look at any tree that was borderline and reevaluate those trees since we have had some bad storms to see if there are some critical trees and on the other side of that put together a list of young trees that need structural pruning.

Commissioner Hower asked what were the goals that were discussed at the Retreat the Commission had last November at the Rust Sanctuary. He suggested finding a developer to work hand in hand to openly encourage more trees in the Town limits.

Commissioner Wolf stated that in the contract with the facilitator that he was to come back a second time for free to give the Commission a final overview of the retreat.

Commissioner Pritchard stated that the other goal besides working with a developer was to work with the Planning Commission.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bessa asked about the Rust Sanctuary.

Council Member Schmidt mentioned that there would be an opening on the agenda for each Commission at the Council Meetings.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Banks stated that the Planning Commission minutes and upcoming agenda are on the Town's web site. Mr. Banks also discussed the state of the Dogwoods on the By Pass.

Commissioner Pritchard asked was there any comment about a memo that was sent to the Town Council about planting another kind of tree that might survive.

Commissioner Wolf stated that the Commission talked about replacing the Dogwoods with different types of trees, the Dogwoods are also dying because there is no soil around the trees.

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Mr. Banks stated that the Towns Traffic engineer came back from a VDOT session on the work proposed for the By-pass to add additional lanes from Battlefield Parkway down to the intersection with a new interchange on S. King St.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Bessa made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Bessa
Second: Perry
Carried: 6-0

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Jay S. Banks, Urban Forester